

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware, twice weekly home testing kits have been made available for staff, parents/carers and those children in **Year 7 and above**.

Primary school children should not use these tests.

Please remember that home testing kits are designed to find those who have COVID that are not displaying symptoms. **They should only be used for people without symptoms** and should not be used when people are displaying symptoms. These tests are best at picking up COVID 19 when the virus is most infectious and may not pick people up in the early days of infection or where a test has not been performed correctly. Therefore, these tests should not be used as a test to rule out COVID and you must continue to follow the most up to date government guideline even if you test negative.



If you, your child or anyone in the family has symptoms, please book a PCR COVID test at www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by phoning 119.

The best way you can help to keep COVID-19 out of schools is to:

- Follow the latest government guidelines, including social distancing when meeting anyone you do not live with or who is not in your childcare/support bubble.
- Carry out twice a week testing for any adult or child in year 7 and above in your household or support bubble.
- Get vaccinated when you are invited.

What should I do if?	Action needed ...
<p>My child is feeling ill with COVID-19 symptoms of:</p> <p>a high temperature – this means your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back</p> <p>a new cough that won't stop – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours</p> <p>a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means your child cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.</p> <p>Most children with COVID-19 have at least one of these symptoms.</p>	<p>DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.</p> <p>The whole household must self-isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms.</p> <p>You should book a test for your child www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or by phoning 119.</p> <p>Please note – only the person with symptoms should be tested and there is no need for others in the household to have a test, unless they also have any of the symptoms mentioned.</p> <p>Make sure you tell the school immediately about the result of the test.</p>
<p>My child is feeling ill with other symptoms such as a sore throat, runny nose or a headache.</p>	<p>You should act in the same way as you would have done before the pandemic. This may involve sending your child to school or keeping them at home, depending on the nature and severity of symptoms. Of course</p>

	<p>you should seek medical advice via your GP or NHS direct on 111 if you would normally do so.</p> <p>Please note – if your child has sickness or diarrhoea they should not return to school until 48 hours after the last bout of this, as is normal policy.</p>
Someone in my household has COVID-19 symptoms or is awaiting the outcome of their Covid test.	DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.
My Child or someone in my household tests positive for COVID-19 on either a home testing kits or a PCR test.	<p>DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.</p> <p>The whole household need to self-isolate from the day the first person in your household started symptoms and for the next 10 full days. If they did not have symptoms, self-isolate from the day of their test and for the next 10 full days.</p>
My Child or someone in my household with symptoms tests negative for COVID-19 with a PCR test NOT a home testing kits.	Your child can return to school, assuming they are well, and no one in the household or support bubble has any further COVID-19 symptoms.
My child has been identified as a contact of a positive case.	<p>DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.</p> <p>Only your child needs to isolate, 10 full days from the last time they were a contact of the positive case.</p> <p>Your child does not need to be tested and a negative test would not mean the end of their isolation.</p>
I am going to find it financially difficult to isolate, I need to go to work.	<p>If you have been identified as a contact or you need to stay off work due to your child being identified as a contact, you may be eligible for a Track and Trace support payment.</p> <p>You can find more information at https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus-covid-19/test-and-trace-support-payments/ or by calling (01226) 787787 and pressing option 3.</p>